

WORDS TO DEEDS LEADERSHIP GROUP

Call Notes

*Friday, December 8, 2006
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.*

Participants:

Toby Ewing, New California Network
Lynda Frost, Corrections Standards Authority
Sheriff Curtis Hill, San Benito County
Dorothy Johnson, Perry Communications Group (Lilly)
Al Lammers, Council on Mentally Ill Offenders
Elaine Linn, Perry Communications Group (Lilly)
Dave Meyer, USC
Jo Robinson, San Francisco County
Kevin Smith, Orange County Health Care Agency
Supervisor Helen Thomson, Yolo County
Kit Wall, Eli Lilly and Company
Assistant Sheriff Charlie Walters, Orange County

I. Update on Follow-Up Document (Dave Meyer)

Dave has drafted the portion of the document summarizing the breakout sessions and he is working on the morning panel overview. Dave has conducted or scheduled discussions with three of the panelists and there are two remaining. Elaine will follow up with the two remaining contacts to schedule calls.

The completed document should be available in January.

II. Outreach with ACCESS Coalition (Curtis Hill)

Steve Szalay and Curtis Hill participated in the ACCESS Coalition planning retreat on behalf of the California State Sheriffs' Association. Curtis reported productive involvement with the group. CSSA will continue discussions with the ACCESS Coalition through ongoing involvement. CSSA will also continue discussions with the California Mental Health Directors Association, which expressed concern over the source of funding for proposed programs (during discussions at the ACCESS retreat).

III. Legislative Efforts (Curtis Hill)

Curtis reported that Rusty Selix has distributed draft language for a bill to address state level jail diversion and re-entry issues. The group discussed the need to address efforts at the local level and Curtis reported that CSSA's efforts were geared toward expanding MIOCR. The group discussed the temporary nature of MIOCR funding and observed that very few counties have addressed corrections/mental health issues in Proposition 63 plans, although the legislation requires attention to these issues. The group discussed the barriers to including corrections/mental health issues in MHSA planning including: 1) There is no incentive for spending in this area; 2) There is often pushback to spending in this area; and 3) MHSA planning committees were trained not to include corrections dollars in Proposition 63 planning.

The group agreed to individually provide comments on the legislative language to Rusty Selix and cc the group. Each would indicate that the comments were derived collectively from the “Words to Deeds Leadership Group.”

Helen reported that she has discussed this briefly with Senator Darrell Steinberg and that he is very interested in how Proposition 63 is being implemented at the local level. Helen will schedule a meeting with Steinberg to discuss this issue and expand his focus to re-entry. The following were recommended for inclusion in the meeting:

California State Sheriffs’ Association

Council on Mentally Ill Offenders

California Mental Health Directors Association (Gail Bataille, Mark Refowitz or Pat Ryan were suggested)

IV. COMIO Update

(Al Lammers)

Al reported that Orange County Assistant Sheriff Charlie Walters was appointed to the Council on Mentally Ill Offenders. Charlie hosted the last COMIO meeting in Orange County and provided an interesting demonstration of some of the County’s training for law enforcement. Charlie reported that he has CDs of the training, which he will forward to Al for distribution.

COMIO members reported that CDCR Director Jim Tilton has been attending the meetings and added new momentum and opportunities for the group. CDCR will be participating in the next COMIO meeting on December 14th in San Francisco where the group will observe the County’s Behavioral Health Court and discuss draft legislation relating to the Court. The group suggested inviting Rusty Selix and Darrell Steinberg to this meeting. Al will contact both.

V. Miscellaneous

(All)

Media Opportunity – Helen Thomson reported that KQED’s Mark Shaffer has contacted her about a documentary he is working on to examine the intersection of criminal justice and mental health. Mark previously produced a documentary on the Twin Towers and now wants to do a positive piece looking at successful efforts, primarily in Northern California. Kit Wall mentioned that this might be a sort of sequel to “Hope on the Streets.” The group decided that Jo Robinson and Dave Meyer should be primary contacts for Mark, as well as Lynda Frost. Review of MIOCR grants was also suggested (available publicly on January 1), as well as observation of San Francisco’s Behavioral Health Court. Helen will provide Mark with Words to Deeds materials and contact information.

Outcomes Measures – Dave announced that Toby Ewing has commenced work to develop outcomes measures in his new capacity at New California Network. Toby would like to take a previous study on outcomes in jail diversion/jail release and update it. He will be developing a list/resource on outcomes measures, or a consistent set of measures.

Dave commented that with all of the energy and enthusiasm around corrections and mental health issues there should be some coordination and integration of efforts. He reported that the following issues are being examined by multiple groups in which he is involved (failure of Proposition 63 to use funds for corrections/mental health, development of a list/resource on outcomes measures). He reported that the MHSA Oversight and Accountability Commission has a subcommittee (chaired by Richard Van Horn) dealing with outcomes but they have not focused much on this population. Dave will contact Richard to invite him to the next COMIO meeting to facilitate coordination. Lynda will contact Toby to discuss the outcomes project since CSA is working on a similar project.

The group discussed the possibility of releasing this publication at the next Words to Deeds workshop and building speakers/topics around this.

Attorney General – The group discussed Rose King’s request for a list of “go to” resources and an overview of the Words to Deeds Leadership Group activities as a primer for Attorney General-elect Jerry Brown and incoming staff. The group agreed to develop and provide this information. It was suggested that the Sheriffs take the lead.

VI. Next Steps

(Elaine Linn)

- a. Planning for 2007 Activities – Elaine reported that the Sheriffs are planning to host the next Words to Deeds workshop and that the follow up document from the 2006 event would be available in January.
- b. Future calls/meetings – The group requested a live meeting in Sacramento to coincide with the January COMIO meeting on January 18th in the afternoon.